



## Introduction

*"The future presents alternatives, and we still have—will always have—challenges in defining and accomplishing what we want for our community, as it is today and as we wish it to be for our children."*

*Frank Caplan, 2020 Vision Plan/EAR Committee member*

In 1995, the then newly incorporated Village of Key Biscayne adopted a Comprehensive Plan, as required under Florida law. That plan, also known as the Village Master Plan, was preceded by at least five years of study and preparation, pre-dating incorporation of the Village.

Today, approximately a decade later, the Village is close to completing the first (and also required) regular evaluation and appraisal of its Comprehensive Plan. The Village has taken this period of self-examination as an opportunity to cast a collective eye, from its past and present, toward the future—by developing a Vision Statement and Vision Plan.

The Village of Key Biscayne's **2020 Vision Plan** is the result of a consensus-building process involving extensive community outreach and participation. It is the outcome of an exciting, ambitious collaboration between the Village and its residents to develop a community-wide, long-term vision for the future. The 10-month process was led by a broadly representative resident advisory committee, aided by Village staff and the nationally recognized planning and design firms Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC and SWA Group.

### ***What is a Vision Plan?***

The **2020 Vision Plan** summarizes the Village's vision of its preferred future, and the initiatives and projects required to implement the vision.

An equally relevant and interrelated question is, "what is a vision"? A vision is a visual image of what a community wants to become at some point in the future. This image is synthesized from expressions conveyed by the residents through a "visioning" process, which is designed to tap into, and distill, the community's shared values and aspirations for the long-term functional, aesthetic, social, and fiscal character of the community.

The 2020 Vision Statement depicts, in words and images, what the Village of Key Biscayne will strive to become over the next 15 years—the destination. The Vision Statement sets the stage for defining "how we get there." It is the starting point for the creation and implementation of the Vision Plan.

## ***Purpose of the Vision Plan***

*"By understanding what we value and by envisioning what we want, we can, in fact, take actions to control our own future."*

*Frank Caplan, 2020 Vision Plan/EAR Committee member*

Just as the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) looks at the past decade of Village planning, decision-making, and action-taking to determine progress toward the Comprehensive Plan's goals, the **2020 Vision Plan** and, by extension, the 2020 Vision Statement are meant to be the Village's "sounding board" for future planning and policy-making decisions.

The Vision Plan, however, does not replace the Comprehensive Plan and, unlike the Comprehensive Plan, it is not mandatory. Yet, as the community's collective destination for the year 2020, it could be the most important document the Village has ever crafted. The Vision Plan promotes the community's collective values and aspirations. As such, the 2020 Vision should be considered by elected and appointed officials every time important decisions must be made on issues that impact the future of the community.

The purpose of the **2020 Vision Plan** is to document the visioning process and to itemize and prioritize the specific steps that the Village of Key Biscayne will undertake to implement the 2020 Vision Statement. The recommendations include a variety of proposed initiatives and projects which more fully define and portray specific attributes of the 2020 Vision Statement.

## ***Relationship to Other Village Plans and Studies***

The Vision Plan is, by its very nature, different from other conventional planning documents that the Village. As indicated previously, the Vision Plan is not mandated. It is significantly less detailed and less binding than the Comprehensive Plan or the Village Code. Instead, the Vision Plan provides a framework for strategic decision-making about the future, and thus for the updating, or development, of other plan documents and studies that typically provide detailed information necessary to identify or establish specific programs and projects.

The EAR process was conducted in close coordination with the visioning process, with the goal of mutually and beneficially informing the outcome of both efforts. The relationship between the two processes and their products is clear as one reads through the input provided by resident participants in the visioning community forums, the 2020 Vision Statement, and the description of major local issues identified in the EAR.